

DOCKET NO.. ASTERNACK 1 (RM1134)

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 and 10 to 17 are currently pending

Claims 1-4, 12, and 14-17 have been amended to more clearly define the invention, by defining features relating to audio, visual and tactile modal forms of input and output modes for the user interface.

In the Examiner's "Response to arguments", the Examiner states that features upon which applicant relies are not recited in the claims and limitations from the specification are not read into the claims.

Consequently, these features are now recited more explicitly in the claims. The applicants believe the amended claims more clearly distinguish over the cited art, and submit the claims should now be in condition for allowance.

In particular, the invention as described provides for managing different modal forms of input and output by a user at a user interface of a multi-modal user terminal supporting audio, visual and tactile modes. As described in the present application, and for example as defined in claim 17, the server is capable of mediating simultaneous input and/or output in more than one of these modes.

With respect to the Examiner's s.102 rejection of Claims 1-8 and 10-17 over Focsaneanu, the applicants believe that amendment to the claims to define the invention more clearly and to refer explicitly to audio, visual and tactile modal forms and distinguishes patentably over Focsaneanu.

In contrast to the multimodal interface server, method and software described and claimed in the present application, Focsaneanu addresses a different aspect of a communications network and provides an interface for access in a multi-service network encompassing one or more of PSTN, data networks, wireless networks, satellite networks, CATV, ATM and other communications networks.

All dependent claims add further limitations to the independent claims and should also be allowable.

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Thus the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of amended claims with  
a view to allowance.

Yours very truly,

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